

ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

PUBLIC HEARING FEBRUARY 24, 2011

RAISED BILL No. 6405 AAC CERTIFICATION OF SERIOUSLY ILL UTILITY CUSTOMERS.

Testimony of Patricia Casey IN SUPPORT OF RAISED BILL No. 6405

Senator Fonfara, Representative Nardello, and members of the Committee

Thank you for raising this bill that would directly affect seriously ill patients.

I have had a number of diabetic patients who need certification of their medical condition in order to prevent lose of power. Insulin needs to be refrigerated to maintain its expiration date. Patients often panic when learning their power is going to be shut off...they sometimes make an appointment to request that the paper work be filled out only to find that I cannot. The MD I collaborate with will not sign because "he hasn't seen the patient" and round and round it goes. A waste of tax payer money as many of these patients are on state plans...so the tax payer is paying for the visit. If I am able to prescribe the insulin as an APRN, I should be able to certify why the electricity shouldn't be shut off.

Formerly, I worked in Pedi primary care in a clinic setting where often infants required nebulizer delivery of meds which requires electricity. Sometimes families of these infants were in a situation where utilities were being shut-off. Very often the APRNs in these settings are the primary care providers but in this situation find themselves running around looking for a physician willing to sign – keeping in mind docs may not be present, may be on vacation, may be in another setting, and it may be days before the paper is properly signed.

Thank you for considering this bill.

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